

Quake Rocks City During Christmas Celebrations

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No Automobile Deaths Reported on Holidays

One Non-Injury Crash Mars Perfect Record

While most cities in the United States reported staggering highway death tolls, Torrance finished its long Christmas week-end with only one accident—that of the non-injury variety—on the police record book.

And, police reported, less than a dozen persons were lodged in city jail to sleep off their Christmas spirits. Highway 101 was the scene of the only Torrance auto accident. This occurred when James O. Huff, 39, of Manhattan Beach, attempted a U-turn on Pacific Coast highway west of Hawthorne boulevard.

An oncoming car operated by Eunice M. McCuiston, 42, of San Francisco, stopped in time to miss Huff's auto, but a third car, driven by Charles E. Muller Jr., 31, of Manhattan Beach, didn't. His car struck the stopped car, which in turn plowed into Huff's. No one was hurt.

Torrance police booked Huff on suspicion of drunk driving. Except for this case of smashed fenders, the police department operating on a full shift, had a quiet time during the Christmas holiday.

This year's one accident is an even better record than was posted last year, which reported only two non-injury auto mishaps.

Police Chief John Stroh will have a full force on again next week for the New Year's week-end.

Navy Flyer Home After 15 Months

Lt. E. E. Banks returned from 15 months Korean duty with the Navy in time to spend Christmas with his mother and wife here.

The Naval flyer flew 41 missions in Korea before returning to spend 30 days at home with his wife, Billie, and his mother, Mrs. Maybel C. Banks, 1330 Engracia avenue.

Lt. Banks arrived in Torrance December 22. He will report to San Diego next month for reassignment.

In Korea, Lt. Banks flew his 41 missions in land-based single-engine fighter and attack planes.

Former Marine Receives Five-to-Life Sentence

Bill Roger Stewart, 29-year-old ex-Marine who was arrested by Torrance police after an 85-mile-an-hour chase through the city September 29, last week was sentenced to five years to life in San Quentin prison for the murder of a Hermosa Beach woman.

Stewart was arrested after he crashed into a field at the corner of Denker and East road.

New Hospital Equipment Ordered As Memorial to Late Dr. Laughon

A new, modern surgical diathermy unit, made available through the contribution of friends and associates of the late Dr. W. I. "Bill" Laughon, will soon be installed at the Torrance Memorial Hospital as a memorial to the well known Torrance doctor.

Dr. Laughon died Christmas Day, 1950, following a collapse in his office a few days earlier. Friends of the physician began a memorial fund campaign immediately and raised more than \$400 from individuals.

Staff members of the hospital contributed another \$300 and the South Bay Branch of the Los Angeles County Medical Society contributed another \$250

recently. The total fund of nearly \$1000 will cover the cost of the badly needed equipment, Dr. Eugene Cook, chief of the hospital staff and former associate of Dr. Laughon said yesterday.

The unit has been ordered and will be delivered sometime after the first of the year.

A plaque to be placed on the machine will read:

In Memoriam
W. I. Laughon, M. D.
A member of the Torrance Kiwanis club and active in the interservice-club council, the late Dr. Laughon came to Torrance 13 years before his death. He was the founder of the Torrance Medical Group.

Building Declines In 1951

Construction totals for 1951 will be about \$3,000,000, short of last year's record \$16,000,000 in total permits issued, according to records of the city's building inspector.

Although final tabulation of the year's building activity won't be completed until next Wednesday, it was evident this week that the 1951 building boom was going to be considerably under last year.

Figures compiled by Mrs. Clara Conner, postmaster for Torrance, show that this will be another record year for the post office.

Receipts went over the \$200,000 mark before Christmas, she reported this week. Last year's total, a record at that time, was \$168,928.32.

There is no question about new records in the schools here, according to Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools. The total enrollment before the Christmas vacation was more than 6000 students, a substantial increase over any previous enrollment totals here.

Christmas Quake Rocks Celebrants

Christmas dinners were interrupted in many Torrance homes Tuesday afternoon as a rolling tremor shook the city for several seconds. No damage has been reported.

The quake, which shook the Southland from Santa Barbara to San Diego and from Catalina to San Bernardino, was described as "moderate" by Caltech seismologists.

Reports from the area indicated that the harbor area bore the brunt of the rolling quake. The center was placed somewhere about 120 miles south and slightly west of Pasadena.

Sgt. Karl Friberg of the Torrance Police Department said he was watering his lawn.

"I didn't even notice it," he reported.

Others reported feeling a sharp quake or a rolling tremor. Most agreed that it was a "roller."

Funeral Services for James A. Dodge Saturday

Funeral services will be held Saturday for James A. Dodge, 46, who died Tuesday, Reverend Shame of the Chapel of the Valley Church in Hermosa Beach will officiate at the service.

Interment will be at Roosevelt Cemetery.

Named to SC Council

Robert Carpenter, 1314 Greenwood avenue, has been appointed to the sophomore class council at the University of Southern California.

Marine Sergeant Awarded Bronze Star in Korea

Marine Sgt. Andrew J. Feller of Torrance has been awarded the Bronze star for "heroic achievement while fighting an armed enemy" in Korea.

Sgt. Feller formerly lived at 22326½ Moneta avenue here. His wife is the former Patricia McDonald.

A reservist now on active duty, Sgt. Feller was commended for his heroism while acting as supply sergeant for a rifle company of the Fifth Marine Infantry Regiment.

Sgt. Feller served in the Marine Corps from 1937 through 1941, then enlisted in the Air Force, being released in 1946. He was recalled by the Marines last year.

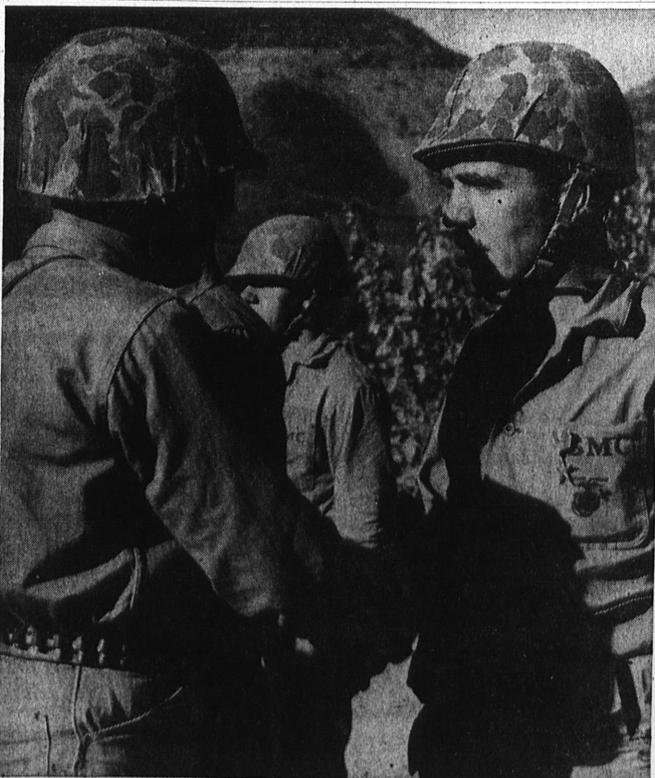
Youths Nabbed For Breaking Into Narbonne

Two Torrance teenagers were apprehended here Saturday morning in what police said was an attempt to burglarize Narbonne High School.

The pair, both on probation for other burglaries, were detained at Lennox station and later released to their parents.

Aaron Bryant, Los Angeles School Board patrol officer, said he surprised one of the boys climbing through a window at the school and caught up with him at 255th and Walnut streets after a chase.

The youth implicated the other boy. Both are 15. Apparently nothing was taken from the school.



AWARDED BRONZE STAR . . . Marine Sgt. Andrew J. Feller, of 22326½ Moneta avenue, is congratulated by Lt. Col. William Alston in Korea battlefield after being presented with Bronze Star for heroic achievement in action against the enemy.



INJURED IN CRASH . . . Shown being lifted on a stretcher following a collision at Pacific Coast Highway and Newton last week is Frank E. Jackson, 28, of San Pedro. With him

are Jack O' Cain, ambulance attendant; Jay Nielsen, Torrance fireman; Dave Figueroa, ambulance driver; and Capt. Neil Whitney, Torrance Fire Department.

Murder Mile Crash Hurts Four

Four Injured In Collision on 'Murder Mile'

A "Murder Mile" two-car collision last Thursday sent two persons to Harbor General Hospital and shook up two others.

Most seriously injured in the wreck at the intersection of Pacific Coast highway and Crishaw boulevard was Eunice Harm, 38, of Reseda. She received a broken arm, cuts and bruises.

Also taken to Harbor General Hospital was Frank E. Jackson, 28, of San Pedro. He suffered broken ribs. Both have been released from the hospital.

James E. Price, 22 and his wife Arlene, 18—both of Reseda, were also shaken up when Price's car collided with one driven by Jackson.

Jaycee Names Winners of Decor Contest

Plaques will be presented this week-end to four merchants whose Christmas display windows were rated as the best in Torrance by the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Tony Ryback, chairman of the Jaycee's window contest committee, announced the following winners:

Jewelry division: Allen Jewellers, 1321 Sartori.

Furniture and appliances: McMahon's, 1306 Sartori.

Clothing: Treske's Men's Shop, 1319 El Prado.

Open division: Torrance Flowers, 1400 Cravens.

Honorable mention went to La Galeria Florists, George's Do Nut Shop, La Florida Gift Shop, and Parish Stationery.

The Junior Chamber plans to make the contest an annual affair among Torrance merchants, Ryback said.

Teenager Hurt When Car Hits Parked Truck

A teenage Torrance girl suffered minor injuries at 6 p.m. Friday when the car in which she was riding crashed into a parked truck at 24914 Pennsylvania avenue.

Deputies said the driver of the car, David B. Vonderah, 17, 1452 Engracia avenue, was momentarily blinded by an oncoming car and struck the rear corner of the 1½-ton truck, which was registered to Edwin Woodruff, 37 of the Pennsylvania avenue address.

Vonderah's sister, Loretta Carol, 15, was transported to Hillside Emergency Hospital in a sheriff's radio car where she was treated for lacerations of the right eye and on the right temple.

Holiday Causes Herald to Move Deadlines Up

Just as this week, next week's edition of the Torrance Herald will be issued at the regular time early Thursday morning, January 3, Publisher Grover C. Whyte announced.

Deadline will again be moved up, however, to enable all employees of the Herald to be with their families on Tuesday, New Year's day.

Deadline for classified advertising will be 5 p.m. Monday, December 31. Club news and columns from area reporters must be in the Herald office by 4 p.m. Saturday, December 29.

The publisher and staff of the Torrance Herald wish to take this opportunity to wish all a Happy New Year.

HAPPY NEW YEAR